

REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

J. S. RANSON

M.R.C.S.; L.R.C.P.; D.P.H.

FOR THE


Halstead Rural District

For the Year 1937

HALSTEAD

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SHARDHIGHS,

HALSTEAD,

ESSEX.

May 24th, 1938.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
HALSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

This report is laid down on the lines indicated in the Ministry of Health's Circular Number 1650.

The number of cases of infectious disease notified has again been low.

The items of chief note are the commencement of the construction of sewage disposal works for Earls Colne, the provision of a piped water supply for the parish of Bures Hamlet, and the extension of the water main from Earls Colne to Colne Engaine.

Sixty houses are at the present time in the course of construction but there remain approximately one hundred and fifty houses in the district which require dealing with to render them fit for habitation.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

J. S. RANSON.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	77,089
Registrar General's estimate of resident population (mid 1937)								15,620
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate								
Books	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,430
Rateable value and sum represented by a penny rate:								
								£47,979. £216 8s. 1d.

Extracts from Vital Statistics:—

		Total	Male	Female
Live Births:	Legitimate	170	92	78
	Illegitimate	6	3	3
Stillbirths		8	4	4
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...			11.2
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	...	...	...	44.0
Deaths	...	...	...	244
Death rate per 1,000 resident population	...	...	...	15.6
Deaths from puerperal causes	...	...	...	nil
Death rate of infants under one year of age	...	...	...	nil
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	34.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	35.2
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births...	...	...	...	nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	28
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	1

The Social conditions have remained the same as in former years.

There has been no marked unemployment or injurious effects upon the health of persons unemployed during the year.

TABLE I.
Registrar General's figures.

Causes of Death.				Male.	Female.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...
Influenza	...	...	...	4	7
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	...	...	...	2	1
Other Tuberculosis	...	...	...		1
Syphilis	...	...	...
General Paralysis of the Insane, Tabes, etc	...	...	...	1	
Cancer	...	...	...	17	11
Diabetes	...	...	...		2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	...	...	...	7	18
Heart Disease	...	...	...	29	28
Aneurism	...	...	...
Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	4	5
Bronchitis	...	...	...		4
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	5	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	8	4
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	1	
Diarrhœa, (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	1	
Appendicitis	...	...	...		1
Cirrhosis of the Liver	...	...	...
Other Liver Diseases	...	...	...	2	1
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	1	1
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	6	3
Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...
Other Puerperal Diseases	...	...	...
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth	...	...	...	1	1
Senility	...	...	...	10	19
Suicide	...	...	...	1	
Other violence	...	...	...	9	8
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	7	15
Ill-defined or not known	...	...	...	1	2
Totals	...	...	...	112	132

TABLE II. Deaths at the Various Ages during 1937.
Registered and transferred.

AGE GROUP.	NUMBER OF DEATHS.
Under 1 year	6
1 and under 2 years	1
2 and under 5 years	0
5 and under 15 years	3
15 and under 25 years	6
25 and under 35 years	6
35 and under 45 years	8
45 and under 55 years	18
55 and under 65 years	37
65 and under 75 years	53
75 and upwards	102
Total	240

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

1. Public Health Officers of the Authority.

J. S. RANSON, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (London), D.P.H. (London),
Medical Officer of Health.

Also Medical Officer of Health to the Halstead Urban
District and Assistant County Medical Officer for the
Halstead Combined Area.

G. F. DEARMAN, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Sanitary Inspector and
Surveyor in charge of the Halstead and Belchamp Areas.

P. H. WHITE, C.R.S.I., A.R.SAN.I., Additional Sanitary Inspector
for the above Areas.

H. B. THAKE, C.R.S.I., Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor (part
time) for the Bumpstead Area.

2. There have been no changes during the year in the following services:

- (a) Laboratory facilities.
- (b) Nursing in the Home.
- (c) Clinic and Treatment Centres.
- (d) Hospitals, Public and Voluntary.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. Water.

STEEPLE BUMPSTEAD. During the year, 100 connections have been made to houses, and six to dairy farms to the recently installed piped supply from the bore-hole at Helions Bumpstead. The Surveyor considers that this extension of the small Helions Bumpstead piped supply necessitates the duplication of the pumping plant, and that the Council should consider the sinking of another bore-hole in a position where electrical power would be available.

ASHEN. Work is at present in progress for the sinking of a bore-hole for this parish. As previously reported, a satisfactory supply of water for this parish, and the adjoining parish of Ovington, is urgently required.

COLNE ENGAINE. The Council have decided to supply this village from the Water Works at Earls Colne. The extension of the mains is at present in hand.

BURES HAMLET. The supplying of this village from the Water Works of the Lexden and Winstree Rural District Council at Mount Bures is in hand.

SIBLE HEDINGHAM. Analyses of samples of water during the year showed that four wells were bacteriologically suspicious or unfit. The varying quality of water in the wells drawing water from the gravel subsoil in this parish proves a grave risk of pollution. A piped supply is required.

GOSFIELD. Further samples of water submitted for analysis have again showed the varying quality of the water from the gravel subsoil. As a large proportion of these wells are shallow the risk of pollution is considerable and a piped supply is required.

The year 1937 has seen the connection of many houses to the supply scheme at Steeple Bumpstead.

The decision to supply the parish of Colne Engaine with water from the Earls Colne Water Works has led to the work now being put in hand.

Bures Hamlet is about to be supplied with water from the Lexden and Winstree Rural District Council's Works at Mount Bures.

It seems that the tendency of villages is, wherever possible, to obtain their water from the nearest large bore-hole.

With the extension of piped supplies to rural areas in other districts, parishes such as Ridgewell, Great Yeldham, Sible Hedingham and Gosfield will ultimately demand such supplies.

A large amount of both private and public work at the present time being carried out on wells and bore-holes may ultimately be wasted owing to the provision of a large scheme.

A bore-hole is at the present time being sunk at Ashen. There is difficulty in the neighbouring parish of Ovington in raising water, and it seems that probably some form of pumping plant will be found to be necessary and then later to pipe this water to Ovington.

This might be an example of a small scheme which would prove uneconomic and be abandoned in the event of the large scheme being undertaken for the district.

The Surveyor suggests in this report that another bore-hole should be sunk for the Helions and Steeple Bumpstead Water Supply in a position where electrical power can be obtained.

From these observations it seems that in the near future several parts of the district will require piped supplies. Whether this will be by a series of small schemes or by a large scheme remain to be seen. Automatic electric pumping might enable economic small schemes to be installed where power is available.

2. Drainage and Sewerage.

STEEPLE BUMPSTEAD. Seventy-seven premises have been connected to the new sewer. The effluent from the new sewage disposal works has been reported upon as satisfactory.

EARLS COLNE. The work for the construction of the sewage disposal works for this parish is in hand.

CASTLE HEDINGHAM. No further action has been taken for the provision of a sewage disposal works for this parish.

RIVERS AND STREAMS. The only action taken during the year to check existing pollution of rivers and streams is, as mentioned above, the commencement of the construction of the sewage disposal works at Earls Colne. This has been in the past the chief source of river pollution in the area. The other smaller sources of pollution remain as in former years.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. During the year the following conversions have been made:

From privy to pail closet	...	...	24
From pail to water closet	...	...	84
From privy to water closet	...	...	4

PUBLIC CLEANSING. The Council have recently decided to undertake scavenging in all parishes.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA.

(Report of the Sanitary Inspectors).

Number of inspections:

General Inspections	...	...	...	1,020
Dairies	...	...	...	207
Bakehouses	...	...	...	33
Slaughter houses and Butcher's shops				246
Schools	...	...	...	15
Disinfections	...	...	...	28
Water Supplies	...	...	...	460
Total ...				<hr/> 2,009 <hr/>

SHOPS. All shops have been re-inspected during the year.

SMOKE ABATEMENT. No action has been taken during the year.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS. There are none in the area.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS. No action has been taken.

SCHOOLS. The sanitary condition and water supplies of the schools in the area have remained as in former years and are satisfactory. It has not been found necessary to close any school during the year to prevent the spread of any outbreak of infectious disease.

SECTION D.

Housing.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Act)	353
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	622
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	169
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	363
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	36
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	133

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT THE SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	90
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:—

(a)	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936	nil
(b)	Proceedings under the Public Health Acts	nil
(c)	Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936:	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	10
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition	13
(d)	Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act 1936	nil

4. HOUSING ACT 1936—PART IV.—OVERCROWDING :—

(a) (1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	15
(2)	Number of families dwelling therein	...	...				15
(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein	..	...				112
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	nil
(c) (1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	18
(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases						134
(d)	Number of dwelling houses which have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	...	...				nil

NUMBER OF HOUSES BUILT DURING THE YEAR :—

(a)	By the Local Authority						
(1)	To abate overcrowding	...	...	...		3	
(2)	For re-housing after demolition orders					3	
(3)	For general need	...	...	...		2	
						—	
	Total	...				8	
						—	
(b)	By other Authorities	...	...	...	...	...	nil
(c)	By private enterprise	...	...	...	...	...	107

During the early months of the year a rapid survey of the district was made and a list prepared of houses in such a state that they came within the demolition class owing to the cost of repairs appearing excessive in relation to their value.

A further list of houses was made showing houses which required extensive repairs or re-construction.

All of these houses have again been visited.

The following figures show the present situation with regard to them :

HOUSES ON A LIST AS SUITABLE FOR DEMOLITION	56
Houses on which undertakings have been obtained not to re-let	1
Houses on which no action is to be taken during the present tenancy	2
Houses demolished	2
Houses re-constructed or rendered fit	3
Houses recommended for repairs	2
Houses repaired (a) Fully	3
(b) Partially	12
Houses remaining in the same state	34
HOUSES ON B LIST AS SUITABLE FOR EXTENSIVE REPAIRS OR RE-CONSTRUCTION	98
Number repaired (a) Fully	2
(b) Partially	42
Number remaining in the same state	54

From these figures it is seen that very little work has been done on these houses in the past twelve months. They are all defective, and I consider that the Council should set a higher standard on any repairs that may be done, and exercise their powers to see that they are all either rendered fit or demolished.

NEWLY ERECTED COUNCIL HOUSES not yet in Valuation List:

Stambourne	2 Houses
Great Maplestead	2 „
Little Maplestead	2 „
Belchamp Walter	2 „
Ashen	2 „
Birdbrook: Chadwells	2 „
The Moat	2 „
Baythorne End	2 „
The Street	2 „

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply.

Regular inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies throughout the area have been made during the year.

Seventy samples of milk were obtained from Producers or Dealers in the district during the year, and examined bacteriologically. Of these one only gave a positive result.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, exclud- ing Cows			Sheep & Lambs		Pigs
Approximate No. killed	250	30	60	530		690
Number inspected	200	25	45	392		480
All diseases except tuberculosis, whole carcasses condemned ...	nil	nil	nil	nil		nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	1	nil	nil		nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	1.3	2.1	nil	nil		nil
Tuberculosis only, whole carcasses condemned	nil	nil	nil	nil		nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	nil	nil	nil	nil		2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuber- culosis	nil	nil	nil	nil		0.4

SECTION F.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases.

TABLE III.

Disease.			Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	...	...	1	1	0
Scarlet fever	...	...	9	7	0
Typhoid fever	...	...	1	1	0
Puerperal fever	..	...	2	1	0
Pneumonia	...	...	2	0	1
Erysipelas	...	...	3	2	0
Infantile Paralysis	...	...	1	0	0
Totals ...			19	12	1

Age Groups of Cases of Infectious Disease Notified.

Under	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 and up.	
1 yr.	yr.	yr.	yr.	yr.	yr.	yr.	yr.	yr.	yr.	yr.	yr.	
0	0	1	0	0	2	4	0	7	2	2	1	Total 19.

As seen from the above table, the cases of infectious disease notified have been very scarce during the year.

The School intimations of infectious diseases have been complete and regularly received. Particulars of cases have been handed to the Health Visitors. The most extensive outbreaks in schools were one of influenza at Castle Hedingham in January, and another of whooping cough at Steeple Bumpstead in September.

No action has been taken to immunize against diphtheria and no use has been made of serum treatment for the prophylaxi or attenuation of measles.

Prevention of Blindness.

No action has been taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act 1925 or under Section 176 of the Public Health Act 1936 for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from disease or injury to the eyes.

Tuberculosis.

No action has been taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act 1925 or Section 172 of the Public Health Act 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

Specimens Examined by the Bacteriologist during the Year.

Specimen.	Number Examined.					
Diphtheria	32
Sputa	36
Typhoid	4
Ringworm	2
Milk	71
Water	11
Sewage	0
Ice-cream	0
General	13
Total						169

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—								
1—			1					
5—				1				
15—	2	2	1		1			1
25—	1	2			1			
35—			1	1				
45—				1				
55—								
65 upwards		2				1		
TOTALS	3	6	3	3	2	1	0	1

One death was that of an unnotified case.

Cases admitted during the year to County Sanatoria.

Number Admitted ...	Respiratory. Adults. Children.		Non-Respiratory. Adults. Children.	
	7	0	2	1

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. 1.	Number of		
	Inspections. 2.	Written Notices. 3.	Occupiers prosecuted. 4.
Factories	37	Nil.	Nil.
Including Factory Laundries			
Workshops	79	Nil.	Nil.
Including Workshop Laundries			
Workplaces	26	Nil.	Nil.
Other than Outworkers' Premises			
Total	142	Nil.	Nil.

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars. 1.	Number of Defects.	
	Found. 2.	Remedied. 3.
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—</i>		
Want of Cleanliness	1	1
Insufficient Sanitary Accommodation ...		
Total	1	1

